WILDLIFE CORRIDOR ASSESSMENT

VENTURA STATE ROUTE 118
FOURTH QUARTER REPORT



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INTRODUCTION

This is the fourth quarterly report of a one-year study documenting potential wildlife linkages between the Santa Susana Mountains and the Simi Hills. Fourteen locations that may currently function as crossings along the Ventura State Route 118 (SR-118) (Appendix A, Figure A1) Corridor are included as part of the study. The study area extends from the City of Moorpark, Ventura County, in the west, to Chatsworth (City of Los Angeles), Los Angeles County in the east (Appendix A, Figure A2). The 14 wildlife crossings included in the third-quarter survey are listed from west to east: Collins Drive Box Culvert (Equipment Passage), Alamos Canyon West Reinforced Concrete (RC) Culverts, Alamos Canyon Underpass, Alamos Canyon East Pipe Culvert, Simi Valley Landfill Pipe Culvert, Hummingbird Creek at White Oak Park, Corriganville Tunnel, Rocky Peak Overcrossing, Iverson Road, Santa Susana Arch, Movie Lane Overcrossing, Canoga Street Underpass, and Browns Canyon Creek. Refer to Appendix A, Figures A1-A15, for maps of crossings and camera and scent station locations.

Prior to the survey, a Work Plan Field Surveys Document (Work Plan) was prepared by LSA for Caltrans (April 29, 2003) to serve as a guideline in conducting the wildlife surveys throughout the year. During the course of conducting subsequent surveys, minor changes were made to the procedures described in the Work Plan and are reflected in this report. The changes were in respect to the addition of scent stations at specific locations and the elimination of camera stations due to vandalism and theft.

The fourth and final wildlife survey was conducted by LSA wildlife biologists. Leo Simone, Mike Weller, Mike Ahmer and Kyle Johnson installed the camera stations and prepared the scent stations. Primarily, Mike Ahmer and Leo Simone collected data during the first four days of the survey. Mike Weller and Leo Simone collected data the last day of the survey. Leo Simone prepared the quarterly report with support from LSA Graphics, GIS, and Word Processing Departments. Jack Easton, Principal, reviewed the report prior to submittal to Caltrans. Rick Harlacher, Principal, serves as the Project Manager.

STUDY AREA

The wildlife movement study area includes 14 potential wildlife crossings (Crossings) of SR-118 between Collins Drive in the City of Moorpark on the west and Canoga Avenue in Chatsworth (City of Los Angeles) on the east. The Crossings are RC box culverts, RC pipe culverts, RC arch, corrugated metal pipe culverts, or bridge structures. The bridge structures are called Overcrossings when the Crossing spans over SR-118 and are called Underpasses at locations where SR-118 crosses over a secondary road, wash, or creek. Each type of Crossing located within the study area is listed in Appendix B-Table A, along with its structure dimensions.

In general, all of the Crossings could potentially accommodate the passage of medium-sized to small mammals such as coyotes, bobcats, and rodents. Some existing Crossings with a culvert opening greater than 100 square feet could potentially allow for the passage of larger wildlife species such as bear, mountain lion, and mule deer.

All of the Crossings provide potential linkages between the Santa Susana Mountains in the north and the Simi Hills in the south. Potential linkages through the developed areas include ridgetops, canyons, creek beds, and other undeveloped areas. The purpose of this study is to identify which of the Crossings are actually used by wildlife and the reasons Crossings are not being used if wildlife is in the adjacent areas.

The associated plant communities within the study area include a diverse mix of coastal sage scrub, oak woodlands, mule fat scrub, southern willow scrub, southern cottonwood-willow riparian woodland, nonnative grasslands, ruderal, and eucalyptus woodland. A wildfire spread from the Los Angeles National Forest south into Simi Valley during the last week of October 2003 and first week of November 2003. The fire crossed SR-118 at Collins Drive, Corriganville Tunnel, and Alamos Canyon. The burned areas and the habitat types observed at each Crossing are listed in Appendix B, Table B.

METHODS

In the vicinity of each Crossing, the presence and diversity of wildlife were documented using scent stations, general scat and track surveys, and direct observations. In addition, photo stations were set up at the Crossings to determine direct wildlife use of the Crossings. The third survey was delayed by two weeks due to the wildland fires in Simi Valley, but was conducted from November 17 through 22, 2003. The final quarterly wildlife survey was conducted from February 5 through 9, 2004.

Scent Stations

The purpose of the scent stations is to help determine the species of wildlife in the vicinity of the Crossings and the frequency of their presence. These data will help to give an overview of the wildlife population that can then be compared with actual wildlife usage of the Crossings. Various numbers of scent stations were placed from 100 to 500 feet of the 12 Crossings, for a total of 29 scent stations, as listed in Appendix B, Table C. The general location of each scent station, and photo station is shown in Appendix A, Figure A2. Detailed depictions of each scent and photo station location are depicted in Appendix A, Figures A3 through A17. Since most of the focus species of the survey are carnivores – with the exception of mule deer – efforts to attract carnivores were made through bait selection. The scent station locations were selected based on the topography, accessibility, presence of game trails, and wildlife sign. Photographs are provided in Appendix C, Figure C1 to illustrate the typical scent station installation.

A three-foot metal curb stake was placed in the center of each scent station. The vegetation within a three-foot radius of the stake was cleared so that it would not interfere with making a clear track impression within the tracking medium. Diatomaceous earth (DE) was spread out within the three-foot radius and smoothed to an even finish with a concrete trowel to provide a medium that would aid in the identification of tracks.

The bait was placed in a 12-inch by 12-inch bag constructed of a fine-meshed screen. The bait was added daily to maintain a strong odor. The bait bag was fastened to the stake using bailing wire. The bait consisted of beef liver, chicken liver, and moist cat food.

Each scent station was checked daily during the survey period, and all clearly identifiable tracks at each station were recorded to genus and species, where possible. Once all tracks were recorded, the DE was smoothed and additional DE was added when necessary.

Automated Photo Stations

Automated photo stations (Trail Master) consisting of either passive and active, 35mm camera stations were set up at each end of the nine wildlife crossings, as listed in Appendix B, Table C, and depicted in

Appendix A, Figure A2. Only one active camera station was set up at the south side of the Canoga Street Underpass, due to a shortage of operational 35 mm cameras. A total of 18 35-mm cameras were included as part of the fourth survey. The location of each camera station is shown in Appendix A, Figures A3-A13. Schematics of the camera station installations are provided in Appendix C, Figures C2-C5. With the exception of the Canoga Street Underpass, each of the Crossings was covered with at least two cameras; one photo station spanning the bottom of the crossing on each end.

Passive photo stations were used where the area to be covered was narrow and confined passive camera stations were placed in locations at most of the culvert crossings and mounted to either the ceiling or high up on the sidewalls of the culverts to help deter vandalism. Passive cameras used movement sensors. The passive photo stations consisted of a sensing unit that sensed heat and movement in a detection area in the shape of a fan. The sensing unit was placed so it could detect anything that crossed in the vertical plane of detection. The camera was also mounted near the ceiling and connected to the sensing unit with a cord.

Active camera stations were 35-mm single-lens reflex (SLR) cameras installed with infrared sensing units. The active cameras were used in locations where a wide span needed to be covered by the camera. A photograph was taken when the light beam was blocked between the camera and the sensor. Active photo stations consisted of an infrared sensing unit (transmitter and receiver) and a camera with a cord connected to the sensing unit. Active stations were installed at Movie Lane, Canoga Street Underpass, and Alamos Canyon Road. Since the spans of the Crossings are so wide, a laser was used to aid in aligning the invisible infrared beam on the transmitter units. The camera was triggered whenever the infrared light beam was broken. Both pieces of the sensing unit and the camera were mounted to a 3-foot metal curb stakes, which were positioned to detect movement entering and exiting each Crossing. Both pieces of the sensing unit were adjusted to a height of approximately 18 inches to target medium-to-large mammals (e.g., raccoons, bobcats, deer, and mountain lions). The camera was positioned behind and upslope of the receiver unit, so that both units were in the frame of the camera viewfinder and offset so that the flash did not overexpose the receiver unit in the foreground, diminishing the clarity of the background. Excess cord connecting the receiving unit and the camera was securely fastened to the stakes to prevent disturbance by animals or wind.

For the fourth quarterly survey, previously installed video camera stations at Rocky Peak and Canoga Street Underpass were replaced with 35mm camera stations due to past vandalism and technical difficulties. The 35mm camera stations were programmed to begin operation at 10:00 p.m. each evening in order to reduce extraneous film usage associated with commuter vehicle traffic.

The 35-mm camera and sensor at the south end of the Rocky Peak Overcrossing was stolen during the first day of the fourth survey. The camera and sensor were replaced with a built in motion sensor camera instead of the passive camera station because of inventory shortage.

All the photo stations was checked each day during the study to ensure that it was functioning properly and that enough film remained to record any activity during the following 24-hour period.

General Track and Scat Surveys

General surveys for tracks and scat were conducted throughout the study area each day in the vicinity of the scent stations, photo stations and along the trails used by the biologists. These surveys consisted of a biologist meandering throughout the study area, locating game trails, and observing sign (e.g., tracks

and scat). The surveyor was also on the alert for direct observations of wildlife. Since the study area is so extensive and much of the substrate is hard, the tracks were not cleared each day at the majority of the incidental observed tracks.

Determining Wildlife Usage of Crossings

The wildlife use of each Crossing, by traversing the entire SR-118 right-of-way, was determined by the presence of tracks at both ends of a culvert that indicated travel in the same direction; by the animal's image captured in the north and south photographs of a pair of camera stations installed at a Crossing; or by tracks in the center of the Crossing. An animal was determined to only be using the adjacent habitat or vegetative cover along SR-118 when the animal was detected at the scent stations or in the vicinity of a scent station, and there was no additional sign indicating that the animal approached, entered, or used the Crossing.

RESULTS

The results of the scent station, and photo station surveys are summarized in Appendix B, Tables D and E, respectively. Wildlife and sign that were observed away from the scent stations, but within the vicinity of the study area, are shown in Appendix B, Table F. A species list of all wildlife observed is included in Appendix D.

The weather during the fourth survey was generally cool and dry. A major storm came through the area the day before the survey began which caused major flooding of the study area drainages and washed out a portion of the primary access road into Alamos Canyon. High winds gusting to 40 miles per hour were experienced during the last three days of the survey. Daytime temperatures were in high 40s to low 70s Fahrenheit. Nighttime temperatures were in the 30s. Usually, the sky was partly cloudy or clear.

The Las Llajas and Sand Canyon scent and camera stations were not included as part of the fourth (February) survey because of the vandalism that occurred during the first (May) survey. Corriganville Tunnel and Iverson Road were added during the second survey and were also part of the third and fourth surveys.

At the beginning of the fourth survey, three scent stations were moved, and one eliminated due to inundation of their previous locations. Collins Drive-South at Arroyo Simi, Browns Canyon-North-Top of Dike, and Browns Canyon-South West were moved during the fourth survey. The scent station at Browns Canyon-South-West was eliminated because of access difficulty associated with high water levels flowing in the channel. Collins Drive-South Arroyo Simi scent station was moved from the channel bottom to the nearby stream bank. The scent station located at Browns Canyon-North, Top of Dike was moved approximately 30 feet to the south due to inundation of the original scent station location. Browns Canyon-South was also completely inundated. Therefore, the scent station on the west side of the drainage was eliminated and the scent station on the east side of the drainage was moved to higher ground near the access trail, approximately 200 feet south of the SR-118 Overcrossing.

The following is a summary of the activities and wildlife observations that took place during the fourth quarter (February 2004) survey. A tabular list of wildlife observations is included in Appendix B, Tables E and F.

Collins Drive and Arroyo Simi

Scent Stations. The north and south sides of SR-118 and Los Angeles Avenue were burned during the October 2003 wildfire. Coyote and raccoon visited the north channel scent station relocated during the November 2003, survey (A1). Ground squirrel and small rodent tracks were the only other wildlife detected at this scent station. Rabbit and small rodent tracks were also observed at the utility access road scent station (A2). Tracks at the utility access road scent station were only observed during the first three days of the survey. High winds during the last three days of the survey obscured any tracks that may have been in the DE. The Arroyo Simi scent station south of Collins west of the creek was moved from the channel to the bank because of inundation from the recent rains. Bobcat tracks were found south of Collins at both the Arroyo Simi stations (B1 and B2). In addition, small rodent, ground squirrel, and rabbit tracks were seen. Both stations were vandalized during the first two days of the survey. On the first day of the survey, February 5, the DE was trampled with the stake and bait bag removed from Collins-South west at the Arroyo Simi Creek. The station was rebuilt.

Camera Stations. A raccoon was photographed on February 4, passing through the Collins box culvert from south to north during the survey (Figure A15). On February 9, a barn owl was photographed in the Collins Drive box culvert (camera station 1).

Other Wildlife Observations. Coyote and raccoon tracks were seen in the soft sediment in the area surrounding Collins Tunnel (Figure A17).

Alamos Canyon West

Scent Stations. Gray fox visited once, and coyote twice, the scent station north (C1) of the west canyon box culverts relocated during the third survey. Small rodents also visited the station during the survey. A large mammal visited the west canyon south scent station (C2) during the survey, but the tracks were impossible to positively because of disturbance to the DE associated with wind during the last three days of the survey. A opossum and rabbit were attracted to this scent station as well. The north and south sides of SR-118 were burned by the October wildfire, although only the edge of the dense riparian vegetation along the active creek channel south of SR-118 had burned.

Camera Stations. The camera station in west Alamos Canyon (camera station 2) captured a bobcat the night of February 6, in the north-west box culvert entrance. As in the past surveys, no wildlife activity was captured at the southern camera station in the western canyon.

Other Wildlife Observations. Mountain lion, bobcat, and coyote tracks were found along the access trail and the creek mud near west canyon-north scent and camera stations. Cattle were grazing in the area of the west canyon-north stations.

Alamos Canyon Road

Scent Stations. Coyote/domestic dog, rabbit, small rodent, and lizard tracks were found at the scent stations along Alamos Canyon Road (stations D3 and D4) The bait bag was taken once by a coyote/domestic dog.

Camera Stations. Alamos Canyon underpass is not used regularly by the public. The cameras were not disturbed during this survey period. No wildlife was photographed.

Other Wildlife Observations. Canine and small rodent tracks were observed in the vicinity of the Alamos Canyon Road underpass.

Alamos Canyon East

Scent Station. Bobcat tracks were observed once at the north scent station (station D2) of Alamos Canyon East. Coyote/domestic dog visiting the north scent station (station D1) was recorded every day of the survey. The bait bag was either damaged or removed four out of the five days of the survey. Small rodents were also found at the north scent station.

Other Wildlife Observations. Coyote and bobcat tracks were seen in the dirt at the north end of the CMP culvert.

Simi Valley Landfill

Scent Stations. Bobcat tracks were found in the south scent station within the Caltrans right-of-way (E2), and the north scent station located on the canyon bench (E3). Other species found at the four scent stations (E1 through E4) included stripped skunk, opossum, ground squirrel, small rodents, rabbits, and birds. The October wildfire burned the vegetation on the north side of SR-118.

Camera Stations. The cameras at the Simi Landfill pipe culvert (camera station 4) were pointed directly at the openings during this survey. The cameras were not disturbed during this survey period. No wildlife was photographed.

Other Wildlife Observations. Other sign in the canyon included coyote tracks, and direct observation of several Audubon cottontail rabbits.

White Oak Park and Hummingbird Creek

Scent Stations. Mountain lion tracks were observed at both the White Oak Park and Hummingbird Creek scent stations (F1 and F2). Bobcat and coyote tracks were also observed at the White Oak Park station along with raccoon, rabbit, and small rodent track. Wildlife tracks were difficult to identify during the last three days of the survey because of disturbance to the DE from high winds.

Other Wildlife Observations. Mountain lion tracks were observed leading in the direction from White Oak Park to Hummingbird Creek. Other tracks observed in Hummingbird Creek included coyote and raccoon.

Corriganville Tunnel

Scent Stations. Mountain lion tracks were observed at the north-east scent station on February 7 and February 9 (Figure A17), at the north-west and south-east stations on February 9. Other tracks captured at the Corriganville scent stations north and south of the highway were from coyote/domestic dog, small rodent, and bird (G1-G4). The open space areas on both sides of SR-118 burned during the October 2003 wildfire.

Camera Stations. A mountain lion wearing a radio transmitting collar was photographed passing through the Corriganville Tunnel on February 9 (Figure A14). No other wildlife was captured using the tunnel. The Corriganville Tunnel cameras (station 5) were not tampered with during the fourth survey.

Other Wildlife Observations. Due to the muddy conditions at each end of the tunnel the Mountain lion tracks were easily identified traversing the SR-118 through the tunnel from the north to the south. Several coyote and/or canine tracks were also observed in the area.

Rocky Peak Road

Scent Stations. The north scent station (H1) was visited by ground squirrel, small rodent and bird species. The scent station in the ravine (H2) contained rabbit and small rodent tracks. The southern scent station (H3) attracted small rodents and rabbits. Only the north side of SR-118 was burned during the October 2003 wildfire. High winds during the last three days of the survey obscured many of the tracks in the DE

Camera Stations. Because of vandalism, the video cameras used during the previous three surveys were replaced with passive 35-mm camera stations set to run only at night, beginning at 10 p.m. The camera and passive sensor at the south end of the bridge was stolen the first night of the survey. A replacement camera with a built in motion sensor was used instead of the 35mm passive camera station, because of inventory shortage. Only automobiles and hikers were captured during the fourth survey by the 35-mm cameras.

Other Wildlife Observations. None.

Santa Susana Arch

Camera Station. A single raccoon was photographed near the south entrance of Santa Susanna Arch during the evening of February 4 (Figure A16). Four photographs of a single mouse were also captured at the south entrance (two on February 5, and two on February 6). The north entrance camera (station 7) also photographed two raccoons and one set of wet raccoon prints, with the actual dates unknown.

Other Wildlife Observations. None.

Iverson Road

Scent Station. Bobcat, stripped skunk, and bird tracks were observed at the Iverson scent station (I1). The tracking medium was blown away during the last three survey nights. The DE was vandalized during the fourth day of the survey. This area south of SR-118 was not burned during the October fires.

Other Wildlife Observations. None.

Movie Lane

Scent Stations. Opossum tracks were found at the southern scent station (J2) on four occasions, in addition to small rodents and raccoon tracks. No wildlife tracks were observed at the northern scent station (J1). The Movie Lane Overcrossing site was not burned during the October wildfires.

Camera Stations. This overpass is used regularly by local residents as captured on the 35-mm cameras. The cameras were not disturbed during this survey period. No wildlife was photographed.

Other Wildlife Observations. None

Canoga Street

Camera Stations. Canoga Street underpass (camera station 9) was used frequently by equestrians and other residents taking hikes into the open space area north of SR-118. The video cameras were vandalized during the third survey, and therefore not used during the fourth survey. Only one active camera station was set up at the south side of the Canoga Street Underpass, due to a shortage of operational 35 mm cameras. Equestrians, hikers and automobiles were the only events captured by the camera. No wildlife were observed at the Canoga Street underpass crossing.

Other Wildlife Observations. None.

Browns Canyon Creek

Scent Stations. The north scent station at the Top of Dike (K1) was moved approximately 30-feet to the south due to inundation of the original scent station location. Large mammal observations at the scent stations north of SR-118 (K1 and K3) were limited to canine tracks from gray fox, coyote, and domestic dog. Other observations at these locations included opossum, small rodents and a rabbit.

The usually dry drainage flowing through Browns Canyon was completely inundated. Therefore, the scent station on the west bank was eliminated (K2). Likewise, the scent station on the east side of the drainage was moved to higher ground near the access trail approximately 200-feet south of the SR-118

Overcrossing (K4). At the south-east scent station coyote/domestic dog, tracks were seen along with opossum, raccoon, small rodent and ground squirrel tracks. A coyote/domestic dog removed the bait bag and curb stake from this sent station. The curb stake was retrieved approximately 25-feet from the scent station and replaced.

Other Wildlife Observations. None.

DISCUSSION

Similar wildlife observations were made at the Collins Drive scent stations over the last four quarterly surveys, including bobcat visiting the Arroyo Simi scent stations during all four surveys. Canid species were not observed during the second and third quarterly surveys, but were observed during the first and fourth surveys. Raccoons were observed using the camera station during the second, third, and fourth survey. A barn owl was photographed flying through Collins Tunnel during the fourth survey. Animal activity appears to be similar at this crossing before and after the wildfires.

Bobcats were again present north of SR-118 at Alamos Canyon. The bobcats were observed during all four quarterly surveys. Coyotes were also observed north and south of SR-118 during all four surveys. Gray fox was observed in the west canyon during this survey, versus the east canyon during the third quarter survey. Coyote and/or domestic dog were present along the Alamos Canyon Road and East Canyon. Mountain lion, bobcat, and coyote tracks were seen in the northwest canyon during the first and fourth survey and in the southeast canyon during the third survey. Again, wildlife observations seem to be similar to those of previous quarterly surveys. The mountain lion tracks observed in the northwest canyon were along the access trail leading from Alamos Canyon Road, and in the area of the creek.

As in the third survey, bobcats were also observed during the fourth survey at Simi Valley Landfill. However, mountain lion was not detected. Mountain lion tracks were found during the second survey at Simi Valley Landfill South.

Mountain lion, bobcat, and coyote tracks were found in the White Oak Park. Mountain lion tracks were also found at the Hummingbird Creek station, but bobcat and coyote tracks were not encountered during the fourth survey. Mountain lion tracks were observed heading in the direction from the White Oak Park scent station toward Hummingbird Creek. Mountain lion tracks were observed during the first quarterly survey at Hummingbird Creek and White Oak Park.

A mountain lion visited the Corriganville Tunnel area on two occasions during the fourth survey. One mountain lion wearing a radio transmitting collar was photographed using the tunnel during the last evening of the survey. Based on the track measurements, this mountain lion may have been the same one observed at White Oak Park and Hummingbird Creek. The camera stations were stolen during the second survey but were not disturbed during the third or fourth surveys

Unlike the first three quarterly surveys where coyote and bobcat tracks were frequently observed, large wildlife activity was absent at the Rocky Peak scent stations during the fourth survey. Recovering animal tracks from the Rocky Peak scent stations during last three days of the survey was difficult due to high winds on the tracking medium. Only the north side of Rocky Peak Open Space burned during the October/November wildfires. The camera stations did not capture any wildlife activity on the bridge. Only automobiles were photographed by the 35-mm camera s at Rocky Peak Road.

At Santa Susana Arch, a single raccoon and California mouse were captured by the 35mm cameras on several occasions. Large mammals were not observed at this location during any of the four quarterly surveys.

Bobcat tracks were captured at the Iverson Road scent station. Rabbit and striped skunk were the only other wildlife tracks observed during this survey period. The DE was vandalized on the fourth day of the survey. As with several of the scent stations within the study, high winds affected the ability to identify possible tracks in the DE during the last three days of the survey.

The small to medium sized mammals visiting the Movie Lane scent stations during the fourth survey, included opossum, raccoon, and small rodents. No wildlife were observed using the bridge during this survey. As during the past three surveys, the bridge was used frequently by people taking walks.

The Canoga Street underpass was used frequently by equestrians, pedestrians, and local vehicle traffic during all four of the quarterly surveys The video cameras were vandalized during the third survey; therefore, during the fourth survey, video cameras were replaced with one active 35mm camera station set up at the south side of the Underpass. No wildlife were observed at the Canoga Street underpass crossing during this survey.

At Browns Canyon Creek, coyote and/or domestic dogs frequently visited the scent stations during this survey. On one occasion a gray fox visited the Top of Dike scent station north of the SR-118.

Vandalism was less common during the fourth survey than the third survey. The video cameras previously used at Rocky Peak and Canoga Underpass were replaced with 35mm cameras. Nevertheless, one camera and passive sensor was stolen from Rocky Peak. The scent stations at Arroyo Simi Creek, south of Collins and Iverson Road were also tampered. The cameras at Corriganville Tunnel were mounted a couple of feet higher, approximately 12 feet, to deter theft during the third and fourth quarterly surveys. The cameras were not tampered with during the last two quarterly surveys.

The crossings are in urbanized and recreational areas where there is frequent human activity. Disturbances to the survey scent and camera stations were caused by either people using the crossings or vagrants living in the adjacent forested areas.

Besides being unable to identify possible tracks in the DE, the windy conditions during the last few days of the survey may have had an affect on the amount of wildlife visiting the scent stations by dispersing or diluting the scent from these stations.

CONCLUSION

The final conclusions and recommendations will be incorporated into the final report. Mountain lion activity during the four quarterly surveys has been documented at six Crossings: Simi Valley Landfill South, Alamos Canyon West-South, Alamos Canyon West-North, Alamos Canyon North-East, White Oak Park, Hummingbird Creek, and Corriganville Tunnel. Bobcat activity during the surveys has been at Eleven Crossings: Collins Drive South, Alamos Canyon East, Alamos Canyon Road, Alamos Canyon West, Simi Valley Landfill, White Oak Park, Hummingbird Creek, Sand Canyon, Rocky Peak Road, Iverson Road, and Browns Creek Creek. Coyotes have been observed at seven Crossings: Collins Drive-South, Alamos Canyon, Simi Valley Landfill, White Oak Park, Corriganville Tunnel, Rocky Peak and Browns Canyon Creek. Gray fox has been reported at three Crossings: Alamos Canyon North-West

Canyon, Simi Valley Landfill and Browns Canyon Creek. Deer tracks have been seen at five crossings: Alamos Canyon North, Alamos Canyon South, Simi Valley Landfill North, Simi Valley Landfill South, and Rocky Peak South-Ravine.

The numbers of observations at scent stations during the fourth survey were slightly less than before the Simi Valley Fire. This may be contributed to a reduction of vegetative cover in the burned areas, and/or high winds in the area during the last three days of the survey. Often the DE within the scent stations was disturb to such an extent that tracks could not be identified. The bait scent may also have been dissipated or diluted so that wildlife may have not been able to identify the scent or its source.

APPENDIX A

FIGURES

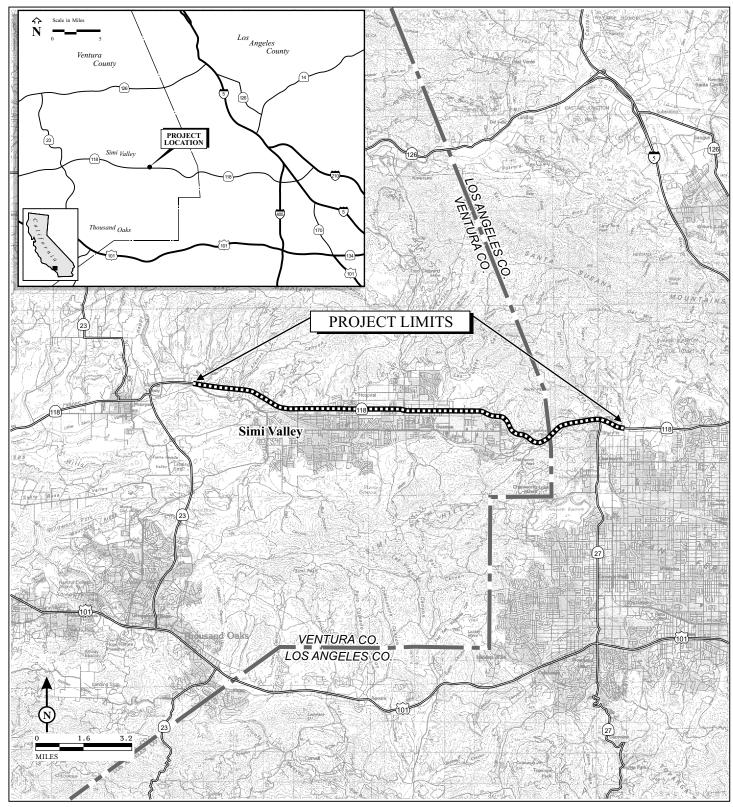
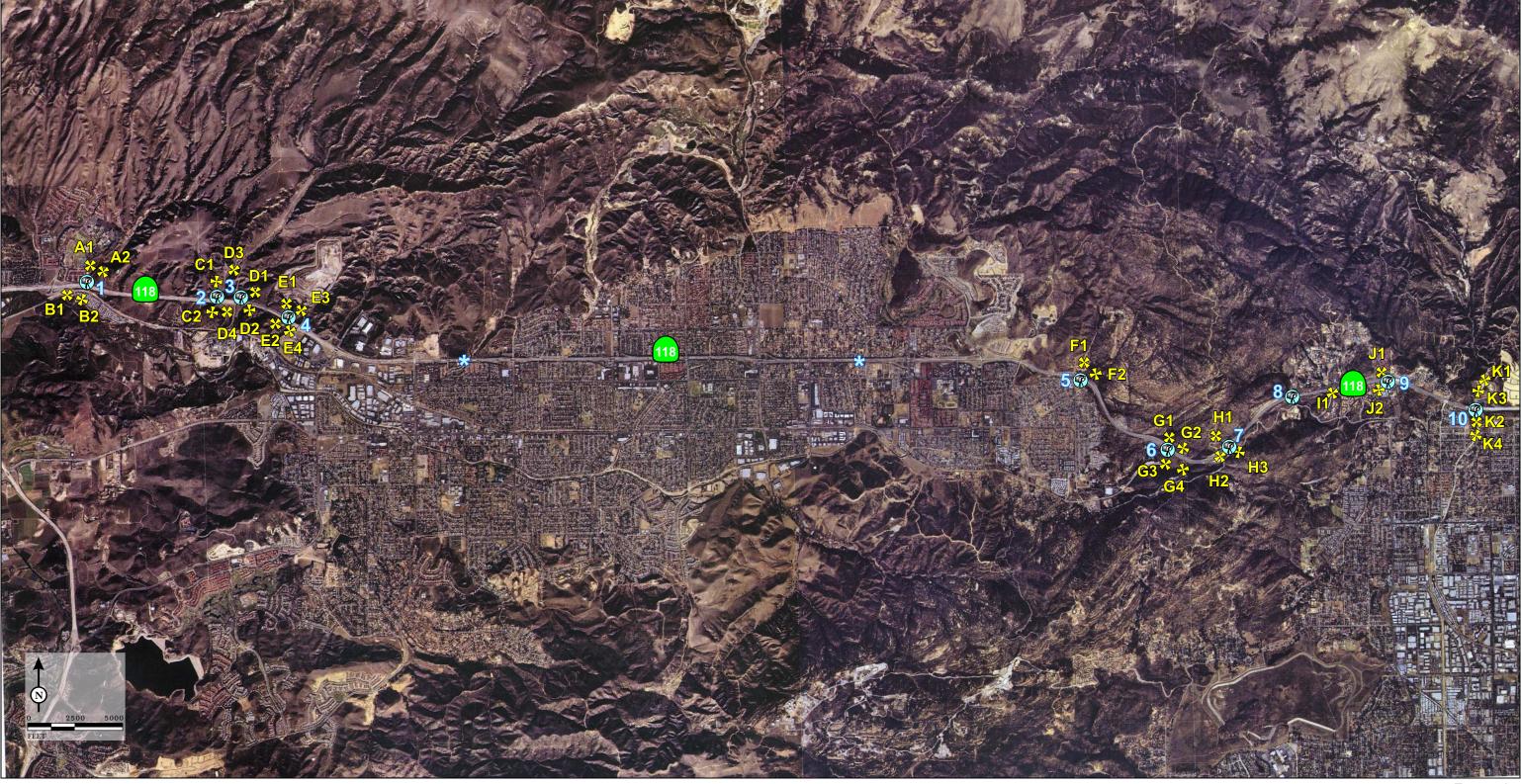


Figure A1



Ventura 118 Wildlife Study Second Quarter Survey July 30 – August 3, 2003 Regional and Location Map



LSA

© CAMERA STATIONS

- Collins Drive Box Culverts
 Alamos Canyon West RCP Culverts
- 3. Alamos Canyon Underpass 4. Simi Valley Landfill CMP Culvert
- 5. Hummingbird Creek
- Vandalized during first survey, therefore eliminated from study.
- 6. Corriganville Tunnel 7. Rocky Peak Road Overcrossing
- 8. Santa Susana Arch
- 9. Movie Lane Overcrossing
- 10. Canoga Street Underpass

 $Scent \, station \, locations \, are \, approximate \, and \, for \, illustrative \, \, purposes \, only. \, \\ BASE \, MAP \, SOURCE: \, 2000 \, Digital \, OrthoMosaic'd \, Air \, Photos, \, SCAG \, Emerge \, Inc.. \, \\$

SCENT STATIONS

- AI. Collins Drive North-Channel
- A2. Collins Drive North-Utility Access Road
- B1. Collins Drive South-West of Creek
- B2. Collins Drive South-East of Dirt Road
- CI. Alamos Canyon North-West Canyon C2. Alamos Canyon South-West Canyon
- DI. Alamos Canyon North-East Canyon
- D2. Alamos Canyon South-East Canyon D3. Alamos Canyon North-Alamos Canyon Road
- D4. Alamos Canyon South-Alamos Canyon Road
- EI. Simi Valley Landfill North-Canyon Bench
- E2. Simi Valley Landfill South-In R.O.W.
 E3. Simi Valley Landfill North-At Spillway
- E4. Simi Valley Landfill South-Creek Bank
 F1. White Oak Park Open Space

- F1. White Oak Park Open Space
 F2. Hummingbird Creek
 G1. Corriganville Tunnel North (West)
 G2. Corriganville Tunnel South (East)
 G3. Corriganville Tunnel South (West)
 G4. Corriganville Tunnel South (East)
- H1. Rocky Peak Road North-R.O.W. H2. Rocky Peak Road South-Ravine in R.O.W.
- H3. Rocky Peak Road South-Trail
- II. Iverson Road South
 JI. Movie Lane North
- J2. Movie Lane South
- KI. Browns Canyon Creek North-Top of Dike K2. Browns Canyon Creek South-West of Creek
- K3. Browns Canyon Creek North-Bottom of Dike K4. Browns Canyon Creek South-East of Creek

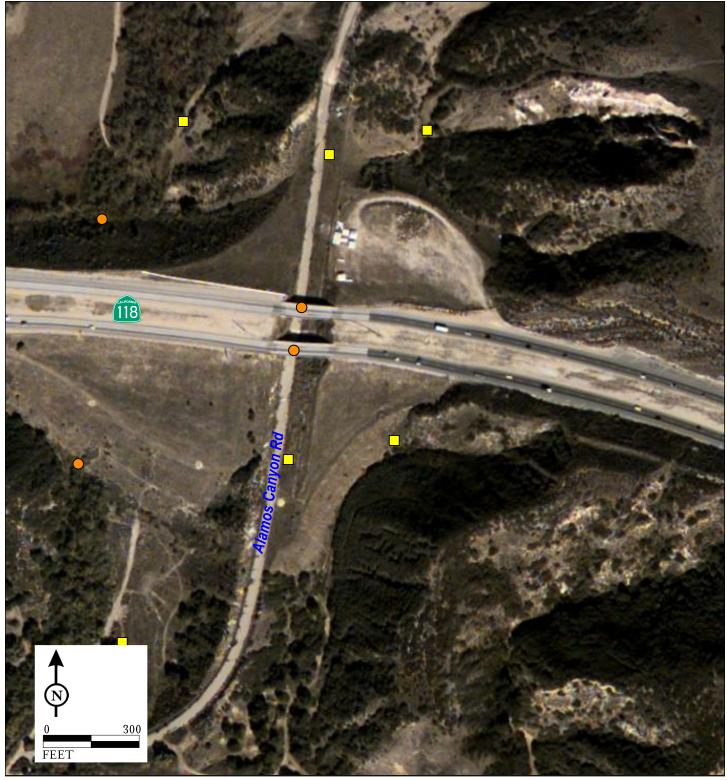
Figure A2

Ventura 118 Wildlife Study Second Quarter Survey July 30 - August 3, 2003 Camera and Scent Stations



■ SCENT STATION LOCATIONS

PHOTO STATION LOCATION

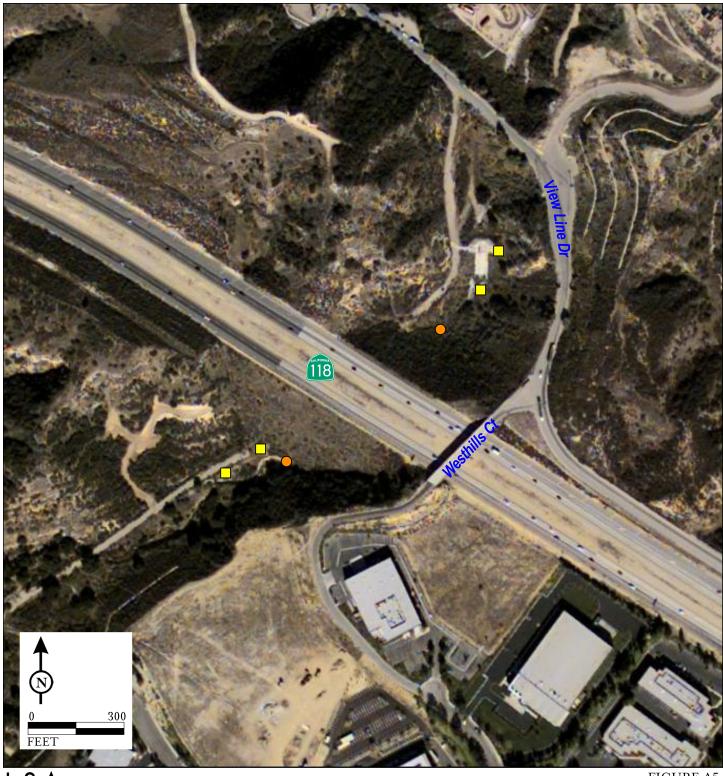


SCENT STATION LOCATIONS

PHOTO STATION LOCATION

Ventura 118 Wildlife Study
Second Quarter Survey
July 30 - August 3, 2003

Alamos Canyon West RC Culvert; Alamos Canyon Underpass; Alamos Canyon East Pipe Culvert



SCENT STATION LOCATIONS

PHOTO STATION LOCATION



SCENT STATION LOCATIONS

Ventura 118 Wildlife Study Second Quarter Survey July 30 – August 3, 2003 White Oak Park and Hummingbird Creek

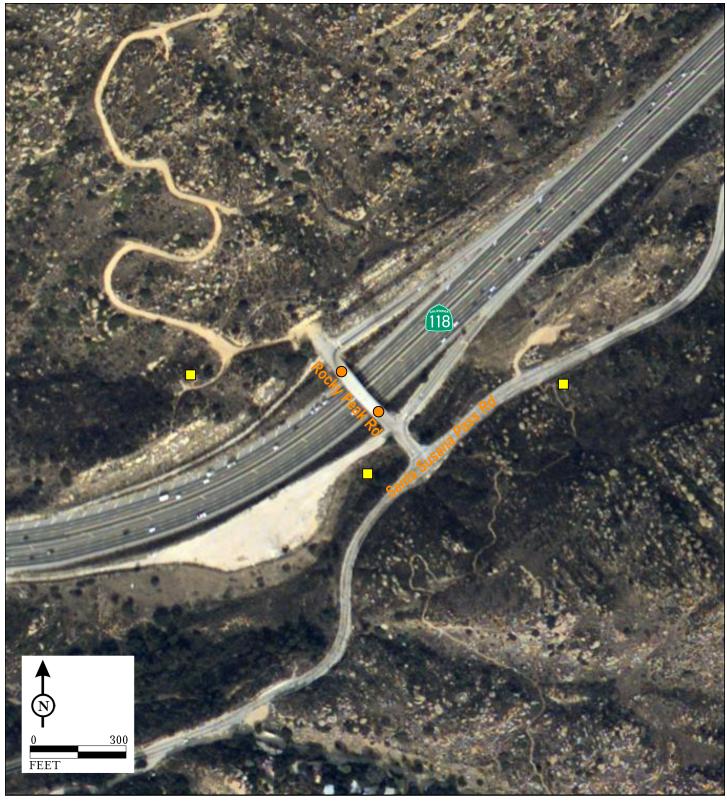


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■ SCENT STATION LOCATIONS

PHOTO STATION LOCATION

Ventura 118 Wildlife Study Second Quarter Survey July 30 - August 3, 2003 Corriganville Tunnel



■ SCENT STATION LOCATIONS

PHOTO STATION LOCATION

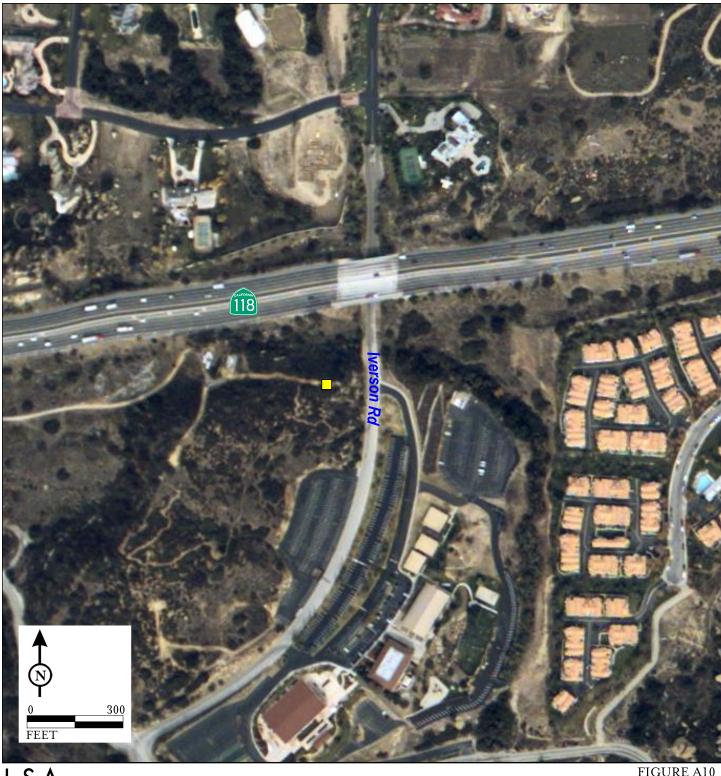
Ventura 118 Wildlife Study Second Quarter Survey July 30 – August 3, 2003

Rocky Peak Overcrossing

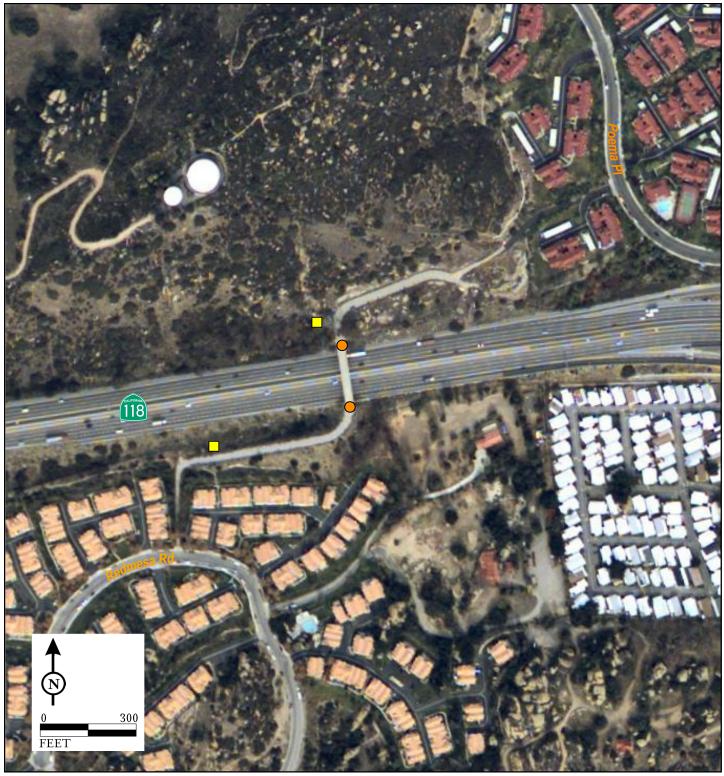


PHOTO STATION LOCATION

Ventura 118 Wildlife Study Second Quarter Survey July 30 – August 3, 2003 Santa Susana Arch



SCENT STATION LOCATIONS



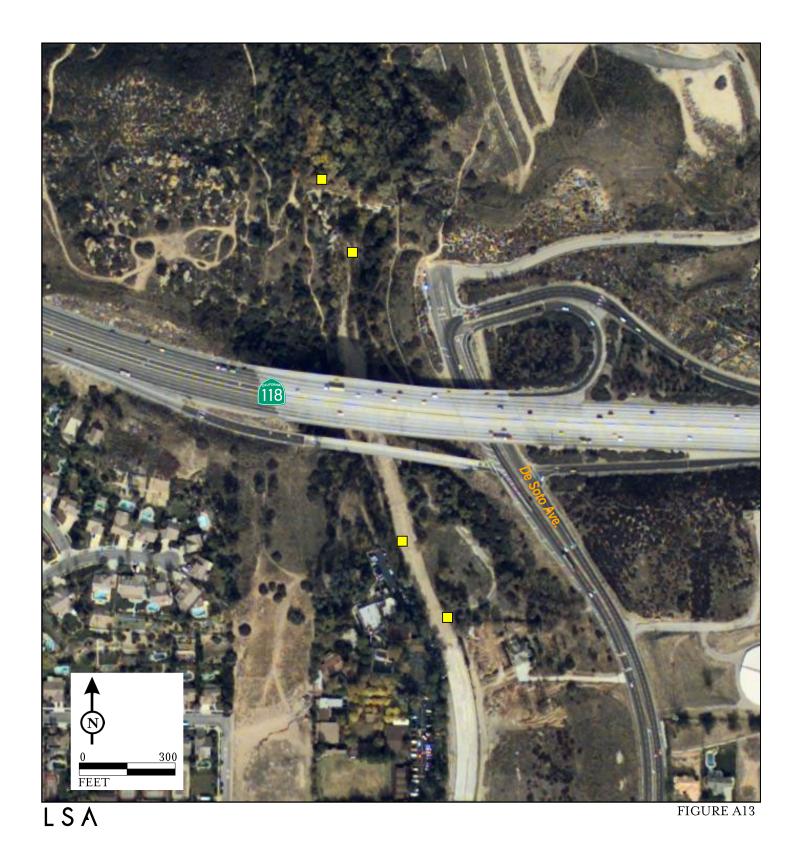
SCENT STATION LOCATIONS

PHOTO STATION LOCATION



LSA

PHOTO STATION LOCATION



SCENT STATION LOCATIONS

Ventura 118 Wildlife Study Second Quarter Survey July 30 – August 3, 2003 Browns Canyon Creek



PHOTOGRAPH 1: Corriganville Tunnel south. Photograph taken August 2, 2003.



PHOTOGRAPH 2: Scent station photograph of Corriganville Tunnel North - West. Photograph taken August 2, 2003.

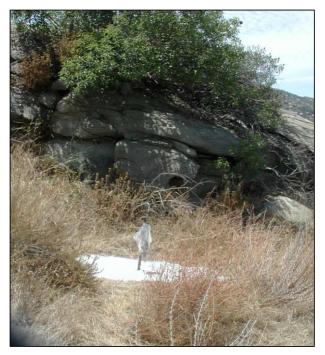
Ventura 118 Wildlife Study Second Quarter Survey July 30 – August 3, 2003



PHOTOGRAPH 3: Scent station photo of Corriganville Tunnel North - East . Photograph taken August 2, 2003.



Photograph 4: Scent station photo of Corriganville Tunnel South - West. Photograph taken August 2, 2003.



PHOTOGRAPH 5: Scent station photo of Corriganville Tunnel South - East. Photograph taken August 2, 2003.

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FIGURE A15

Ventura 118 Wildlife Study Second Quarter Survey July 30 – August 3, 2003



PHOTOGRAPH 6: Scent station photograph of Iverson Road South. Photograph taken August 3, 2003.



PHOTOGRAPH 7: Scent station photo of Browns Creek North Dike Base. Photograph taken August 2, 2003.



PHOTOGRAPH 8: Scent station photograph of Rocky Peak Road North Trail. Photograph taken August 2, 2003.

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FIGURE A16

Ventura 118 Wildlife Study Second Quarter Survey July 30 – August 3, 2003

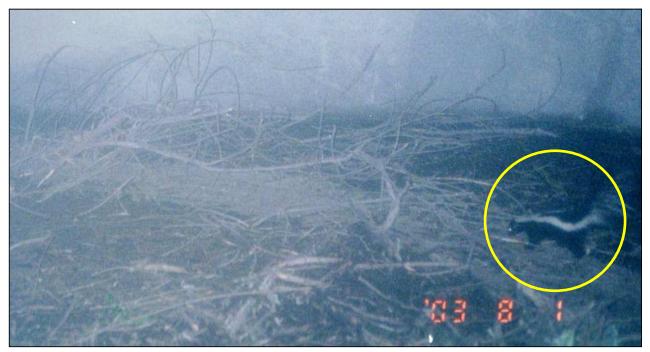


PHOTOGRAPH 9: Bobcat tracks at Collins Drive South - east of dirt road. Photograph taken August 2, 2003.



PHOTOGRAPH 10: Racoon at Collins Road South. Photograph taken July 30, 2003.

Ventura 118 Wildlife Study Second Quarter Survey July 30 – August 3, 2003



PHOTOGRAPH 11: Skunk entering Alamos Canyon West-North. Photograph taken August 1, 2003.



PHOTOGRAPH 12: Small rodent tracks at Alamos Canyon Road - North. Photograph taken August 2, 2003.



PHOTOGRAPH 13: Bobcat tracks at Alamos Canyon East – south end of culvert. Photograph taken July 31, 2003.

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FIGURE A18

Ventura 118 Wildlife Study Second Quarter Survey July 30 – August 3, 2003



PHOTOGRAPH 14: Alamos Canyon East CMP North. Photograph taken August 2, 2003.



PHOTOGRAPH 15: Mountain lion tracks at Simi Valley Landfill South. Photograph taken July 30, 2003.

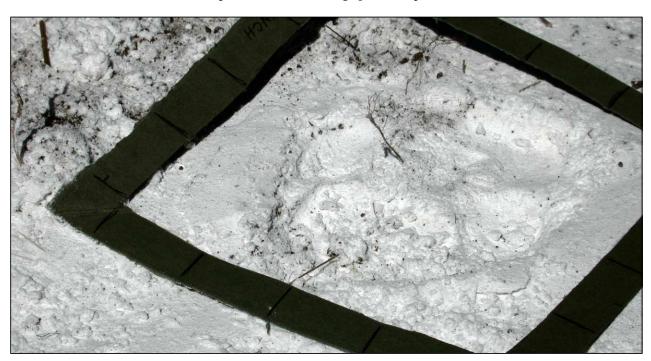


PHOTOGRAPH 16: Mountain lion tracks at Simi Valley Landfill South. Photograph taken July 30, 2003.

Ventura 118 Wildlife Study Second Quarter Survey July 30 – August 3, 2003



PHOTOGRAPH 17: Bobcat at Simi Valley Land Fill North. Photograph taken July 31, 2003.



PHOTOGRAPH 18: Domestic dog tracks at Corriganville Tunnel South-West. Photograph taken August 3, 2003.

Ventura 118 Wildlife Study Second Quarter Survey July 30 – August 3, 2003



PHOTOGRAPH 19: Opossum tracks at Rocky Peak Road South ravine. Photograph taken August 2, 2003.



PHOTOGRAPH 20: Rabbit tracks at Rocky Peak Trail North. Photograph taken August 1, 2003.

Ventura 118 Wildlife Study Second Quarter Survey July 30 – August 3, 2003



Photograph 21: Adult raccoon with three juveniles at Santa Susana Arch. Photograph taken August 1, 2003.



PHOTOGRAPH 22: Bobcat tracks at Iverson Road. Photograph taken August 3, 2003.



PHOTOGRAPH 23: Ground squirrel captured on video at Canoga Street underpass. Video taken in August, 2003.



PHOTOGRAPH 24: Canid tracks at Browns Canyon Creek, top of dike. Photograph taken August 3, 2003.

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FIGURE A22

Ventura 118 Wildlife Study Second Quarter Survey July 30 – August 3, 2003

APPENDIX B

TABLES

Table A. Dimensions of Study Crossings Surveyed in February 2004

Wildlife Study Crossing	Approximate Dimensions (feet)
Collins Drive RC Box Culverts	L: 750, W: 12, H: 8
Alamos Canyon West Double RCP Culverts	L: 816, D: 10
Alamos Canyon Road Underpass	L: 147, W: 126, H: 15
Alamos Canyon East CMP Culvert	L: 600, D: 6
Simi Valley Landfill CMP Culvert	L: 588, D: 6
Corriganville Equestrian Tunnel (RC Box Culvert)	L: 190, W: 16, H: 16
Rocky Peak Road Overcrossing	L: 130, W: 60,
Santa Susana Arch	L: 130, W: 5, H: 6
Movie Lane Overcrossing	L: 130, W: 60,
Canoga Street Underpass	L: 132, W: 85 at base, 170 at top, H: 17
Browns Canyon Creek	L: 130, W: 400 , H: 100

Note: RC = Reinforced Concrete, RCP = Reinforced Concrete Pipe, CMP = Corrugated Metal Pipe, L = Length or Distance Perpendicular to SR-118, W = Width or Distance Parallel to SR-118, H = Height, D = Diameter

Table B. Habitat Types Associated with Wildlife Study Crossings

Dominant Plant Species Wildlife Study Crossing **Vegetation Type Burned during Simi Valley Fire October 2003** Collins Drive - North of SR 118 California buckwheat, sagebrush, chamise, laurel sumac, chaparral yucca California Sagebrush-California buckwheat Series **Burned during Simi Valley Fire October 2003** Mulefat and Non-native grasses; Fremont cottonwood, mulefat, mugwort, Collins Drive - South of SR 118 Mulefat Series and Mixed Willow Series willow **Burned during Simi Valley Fire October 2003** Coyote brush, California buckwheat, Chaparral yucca, California Alamos Canyon - North of SR 118 California Sagebrush-California buckwheat Series, Coast Live Oak sagebrush, cottonwood, willow, rushes Series, Mixed Willow Series West canyon burned during Simi Valley Fire October 2003 Coyote brush, California buckwheat, Chaparral yucca, California Alamos Canyon - South of SR 118 California Sagebrush-California buckwheat Series and Coast Live Oak sagebrush, coast live oak, mulefat, elderberry, laurel sumac **Burned during Simi Valley Fire October 2003** Coyote brush, California buckwheat, Chaparral vucca, California Simi Valley Landfill - North of SR 118 California Sagebrush-California buckwheat Series and Coast Live Oak sagebrush, coast live oak, mulefat, elderberry, laurel sumac Series California Sagebrush-California buckwheat Series and Coast Live Oak Coyote brush, California buckwheat, Chaparral yucca, California Simi Valley Landfill - South of SR 118 sagebrush, Coast Live Oak, mulefat, elderberry, laurel sumac **Burned during Simi Valley Fire October 2003** Non-native grasses and scattered Coast Live Oak trees White Oak Park Open Space Annual Grassland **Burned during Simi Valley Fire October 2003** Coast Live Oak Mulefat and Non-native grasses; Fremont cottonwood, Hummingbird Creek Coast Live Oak Series and Mixed Willow Series mulefat, mugwort, willow Burned during Simi Valley Fire October 2003 Corriganville Equestrian Tunnel California buckwheat, sagebrush, chamise, laurel sumac, chaparral yucca California Sagebrush-California buckwheat Series Burned during Simi Valley Fire October 2003 Rocky Peak Road - North of SR 118 California buckwheat, sagebrush, chamise, laurel sumac, chaparral yucca California Sagebrush-California buckwheat Series California Sagebrush-California buckwheat Series Rocky Peak Road - South of SR 118 California buckwheat, sagebrush, chamise, laurel sumac, chaparral yucca North of SR-118 burned during Simi Valley Fire October 2003 Santa Susana Arch Oak trees, poison oak Coast Live Oak Series Iverson Road California Sagebrush-California buckwheat Series California buckwheat, sagebrush, chamise, laurel sumac, chaparral yucca Movie Lane - North of SR 118 California Sagebrush-California buckwheat Series California buckwheat, sagebrush, chamise, laurel sumac, chaparral yucca California buckwheat, sagebrush, chamise, laurel sumac, chaparral yucca Movie Lane - South of SR 118 California Sagebrush-California buckwheat Series Mostly eucalyptus trees on canyon slopes with cottonwoods north of the Browns Canyon Creek - North of SR 118 Eucalyptus series and Fremont Cottonwood series Eucalyptus on canyon slopes and sweet clover and non-native grasses in Browns Canyon Creek - South of SR 118 Eucalyptus series and non-native grasses and forbs creek channel

Reference: Sawyer and Keeler-Wolf, 1995. A Manual of California Vegetation.

Table C. List of Camera and Scent Stations for the Ventura State Route 118 Wildlife Corridor Study – Feb. 2004

Man		Cam	eras	Man	
Map Labels	Camera Station/Crossing Location	North	South	Map Labels	Scent Stations
Labels		West Bound	East Bound	Labels	
1	Collins Drive R.C. Box Culverts	1-Passive 35 mm	1-Passive 35-mm	A1	Collins Drive North-Channel
2	Alamos Canyon West RCP Culverts	1-Passive 35 mm 1-Passive 35 mm	1-Passive 35-mm	A2	Collins Drive North-Utility Access Road
3	Alamos Canyon Road Underpass	1-Active 35 mm	1-Active 35-mm	B1	Collins Drive Southwest of Creek
4	Simi Valley Landfill CMP Culvert	1-Passive 35 mm	1-Passive 35-mm	B2	Collins Drive Southeast of Dirt Road
5	Corriganville Tunnel	1-Passive 35 mm	1-Passive 35-mm	C1	Alamos Canyon Northwest Canyon
6	Rocky Peak Road Overcrossing	1 Passive 35 mm	1-Passive 35-mm	C2	Alamos Canyon Southwest Canyon
7	Santa Susana Arch	1-Passive 35 mm	1-Passive 35-mm	D1	Alamos Canyon Northeast Canyon
8	Movie Lane Overcrossing	1-Active 35 mm	1-Active 35-mm	D2	Alamos Canyon Southeast Canyon
9	Canada Street Undarmosa	Omitted	1-Passive 35-mm	D3	Alamos Canyon North-Alamos Canyon Road
9	Canoga Street Underpass			D4	Alamos Canyon South-Alamos Canyon Road
				E1	Simi Valley Landfill North-Canyon Bench
				E2	Simi Valley Landfill South-In ROW
				E3	Simi Valley Landfill North-At Spillway
				E4	Simi Valley Landfill South-Creek Bank
				F1	White Oak Park Open Space
				F2	Hummingbird Creek
				G1	Corriganville Tunnel Northwest
				G2	Corriganville Tunnel Northeast
				G3	Corriganville Tunnel Southwest
				G4	Corriganville Tunnel Southeast
				H1	Rocky Peak Road North-ROW
				H2	Rocky Peak Road South-Ravine in ROW
				Н3	Rocky Peak Road South-Trail
				I1	Iverson Road South
				J1	Movie Lane North
				J2	Movie Lane South
				K1	Browns Creek North of SR118 – Top of Dike
				К3	Browns Creek North of SR118 – Bottom of Dike
				K4	Browns Creek South of SR118 – East of Creek

Table D. Ventura 118 Wildlife Corridor Study Scent Station Observations, Feb. 5 - Feb. 9, 2004

Table D. Ventura 118 Wildlife Corridor Study Scent Station Observations, Feb. 5 - Feb. 9, 2004																		
	Mountain Lion	Bobcat	Coyote	Domestic Dog	Gray Fox	Deer	Striped Skunk	Spotted Skunk	Opossum	Raccoon	Ground Squirrel	Small Rodents	Rabbit	Bird Species	Lizard	Livestock (cow, horse)	Snake	Human
A1. Collins North of SR 118 at Creek Channel			2							3	1	1						
A2. Collins North of SR 118 at Utility Access Road												2	1				i	
B1. Collins South of SR 118 - West at Arroyo Simi Creek Bank		3									1	1						2
B2. Collins South of SR 118 - East in Arroyo Simi Flood Plain		1									1	3	4					1
·																		
C1. Alamos Canyon North of SR 118 - West Canyon			2		1							1				1		_
C2. Alamos Canyon South of SR 118 - West Canyon	1	1			_				1				1					
On Humos Cury on South of Six 110 11 Cury on													-					
D1. Alamos Canyon North of SR 118 - East Canyon		1	3							1								
D2. Alamos Canyon South of SR 118 - East Canyon	1	1	1			\vdash				1		1					$\overline{}$	
Da. Mamos Canyon South of Six 110 - East Canyon		1	1									1						
D2 Alamas Canyon North of CD 119 Alamas Canyon Dood			2									2						
D3. Alamos Canyon North of SR 118 - Alamos Canyon Road D4. Alamos Canyon South of SR 118 - Alamos Canyon Road	1												1		1			1
D4. Alamos Canyon South of SK 118 - Alamos Canyon Road													1		1			1
T4 (II 1 1 I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I												-						
E1. Simi Valley Landfill North of SR 118 - Spillway									2			4					\longmapsto	
E2. Simi Valley Landfill South of SR 118 - Caltrans ROW		1										2	1					
E3. Simi Valley Landfill North of SR 118 - Canyon Bench		1							2		3	5					1	
E4. Simi Valley Landfill South of SR 118 - Creek Bank							2						2	1			l	,
F1. White Oak Park Open Space North of SR 118	1	1	1														1	
F2. Hummingbird Creek North of SR 118	1									1		1	1				1	
G1. Corriganville Tunnel North - West	1		1	1								1	1					
G2. Corriganville Tunnel North - East	2			1								4						
3																		
G3. Corriganville Tunnel South - West			1									1						
G4. Corriganville Tunnel South - East	1											2	1					
on corrigination runner court Euse													-					
H1. Rocky Peak Road North of SR 118 - Trail											1	1		1				
H2. Rocky Peak Road South of SR 118 - Ravine in Caltrans ROW	1										1	1	2	1				
H3. Rocky Peak Road South of SR 118 - Hiking Trail	1									1		1						
H3. Nocky Feak Road South of SK 116 - Hiking 11an										1		1						
I1. Iverson Road South														1				1
11. Iverson Koad South														1				1
I1 Maria I and Nauda af CD 110																		
J1. Movie Lane North of SR 118	₩		\vdash														$\vdash \vdash$	
J2. Movie Lane South of SR 118									4	1		1					\square	
K1. Browns Canyon Creek North of SR 118 - Top of Dike			2	1	1				1			3	3				ш	
K3. Browns Canyon Creek North of SR 118 - Bottom of Dike			1	1	1		1											
K2. Browns Canyon Creek South of SR 118 - East of Creek			2	2					1	1	1	1						

Note: Number represents the number of times fresh tracks were observed during the survey.

Table E. Photo Station Data - February 2004 Ventura State Highway 118 Corridor Wildlife Monitoring

Collins Drive Culvert	(Camera Statio	n 1)		
Date	Time	North	Time	South
Nov 17	1824	2 raccoons in culvert	1815	2 raccoons in culvert
Nov 18	1846	1 raccoon, 2 humans in culvert	Nighttime	2 raccoons in culvert
Nov 20	1836	1 opossum in culvert		
Alamos Canyon Nort	h (Camera Stati	on 2)		
Date	Time	West	Time	North East
Feb 6	1838	1 Bobcat		
Alamos Canyon West	t (Camera Statio	on 2)		
Date	Time	North West	Time	North East
Nov 18	2016	1 woodrat		
Nov 19	2025	1 woodrat		
Nov 20	1853-2201	1 woodrat		
Nov 21	0129	1 woodrat		
Nov 22	0524	1 woodrat	0045	1 raccoon
Alamos Canyon West	t (Camera Statio	on 3)		
Date	Time	South		
Nov 17-22		No observations, camera was operational		
Alamos Canyon Unde	ercrossing (Cam	era Station 3)		
Date	Time	North	Time	South
Nov 17		Cameras were stolen and not replaced during this		
		survey period		
Simi Valley Landfill (·		
Date	Time	North	Time	South
Nov 18	1900-2200	1 gopher, 1 woodrat, 1 mouse		
Nov 19	1152	1 bird (CA towhee)		
Nov 19	1303	1 bird (CA towhee)	2024	1 woodrat
Nov 21			0551	1 woodrat

Table E. Photo Station Data - February 2004 Ventura State Highway 118 Corridor Wildlife Monitoring

Corriganville Tunnel (Camera Statio	on 5)		
Date	Time	North	Time	South
Feb 6	evening	Mountain lion		
Rocky Peak Overpass	(Camera Stati	on 6)		
Date	Time	North	Time	South
Feb 5-9		No wildlife observations; camera was operational.		Camera was stolen and not replaced during this survey period.
Santa Susana Arch (C	amera Station	7)	•	
Date	Time	North	Time	South
Feb 4			2128	Raccoon
Feb 5			0508	Raccoon tracks
Feb 5			0556	Mouse
Feb			2227	Mouse
Feb 6			0437	Mouse
Feb 6			1827	Mouse
Feb 7	Night	1 raccoon in culvert		
Feb 7	Night	1 raccoon		
Feb 7	Night	I raccoon		
Movie Lane Overpass	(Camera Stati	on 8)	•	
Date	Time	North	Time	South
Feb 5-9		No wildlife observations; camera was operational.		
Canoga Undercrossing	g (Camera Stat	tion 9)		
Date	Time	East End	Time	West End
Feb 5-9		Camera not installed for this study.		No wildlife observations; camera was operational.

Table F. Ventura 118 Wildlife Corridor Study - Other Wildlife Observations, Feb. 5 - Feb. 9, 2004

Table 1. Ventura 116 Whume Corridor Study - O	*****	,,,,,,,		0 20	, , , ,		, -			~ • • •		
	Mountain Lion	Bobcat	Coyote	Domestric Dog	Gray Fox	Deer	Skunk	Opossum	Raccoon	Ground Squirrel	Small Rodents	Rabbit
Collins Drive - North of SR 118			1T	-					1T			
Collins Drive - South of SR 118												
Alamos Canyon - North of SR 118	1T	1T	1T									
Alamos Canyon South of SR 118 West Canyon												
Alamos Canyon Road Underpass												
Alamos Canyon - Inside East Culvert		1T							1T			
Simi Valley Landfill - North of SR 118												
Simi Valley Landfill - South of SR 118												
White Oak Park Open Space	1T											
Hummingbird Creek												
Corriganville Tunnel - North												
Corriganville Tunnel - South												
Rocky Peak Road North												
Rocky Peak Road South												
Rocky Peak Road - North of SR 118												
Rocky Peak Road - South of SR 118												
Santa Susana Arch												
Iverson Road - South												
Movie Lane - North of SR 118												
Movie Lane - South of SR 118												
Browns Canyon Creek - North of SR 118												
Browns Canyon Creek - South of SR 118												

Note: O - Direct Observation, T - Track, S - Scat, SC - Scent. #T is number of times fresh tracks were observed.